



War & Women's Human Rights International Exhibition

They were Asian Pacific women who were sex slaves of Japanese soldiers during the war from 1931 to 1945.

And they were Jewish women who had to spend miserable days in the female concentration camp run by the Nazis.

The survivors exist, but their pain is fading in the shadow of the past. Obliviousness bears another war, and another one of those women.

This *International Exhibition on War and Women's Human Rights* was created to remember the women around the world whose rights have been violated during war and educate the seriousness of the matter to protect rights of the future generations.

**Sponsored by The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for
Military Sexual Slavery by Japan**



“Comfort Women”

Introduction... Compulsory Mobilization

What is "Comfort Women" System or "Military Sexual Slavery by Japan"?

During World War II, the Imperialist Japan systematically forced about 100,000 ~ 200,000 Asian women (estimation) into a military sexual slavery system through forced drafts and kidnapping. This crime falls under the category of crimes against humanity.

Compulsory Mobilization

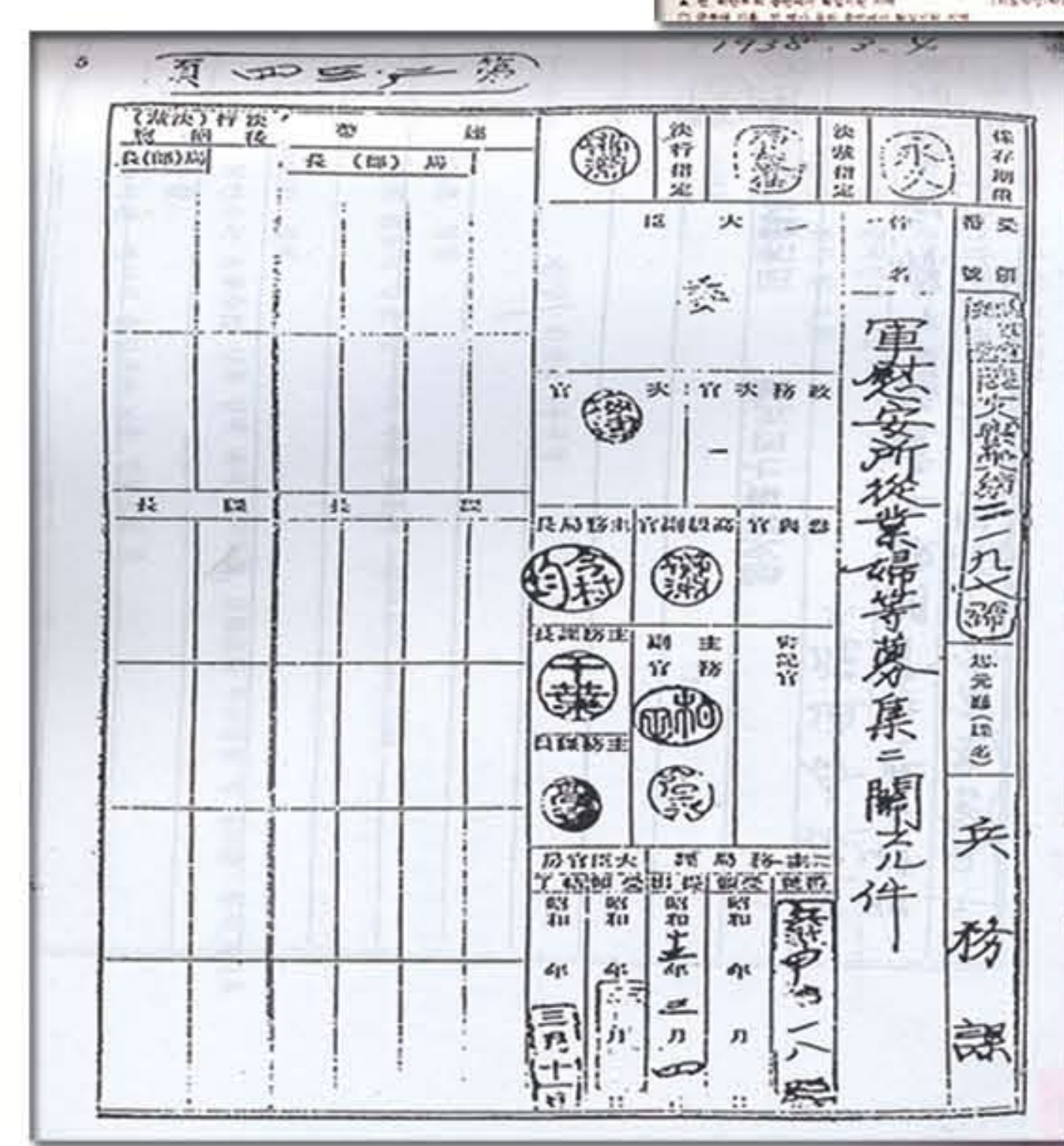
In the early 1932, due to the Shanghai Incident, a mass rape case by the Japanese military, along with other frequent rape crimes, the anti-Japan sentiments prevailed in the region. In addition, the Japanese soldiers got infected by venereal diseases. These interfered the ongoing war, therefore the military invented the military sexual slavery system and drafted women of the colonies and invaded regions. The women and girls were of the ages between 11 and 28 years and were abducted or lied to by the job placement brokers.



The Childhood of Korean Survivor Hwang Geumjoo. She had to live as a military sexual slave since 1939 until 1945 as she was drafted at the age of 13. ▲



The map of the placement of military sexual slavery stations or "comfort stations" ▲



The document of mobilization of military sexual slavery : This document proves that the women were forced into the slavery and shows that military policemen and regional policemen had to participate in the draft process ▲



Military sexual slaves being transferred by military trucks

“Comfort Women”

The Life During and After the War

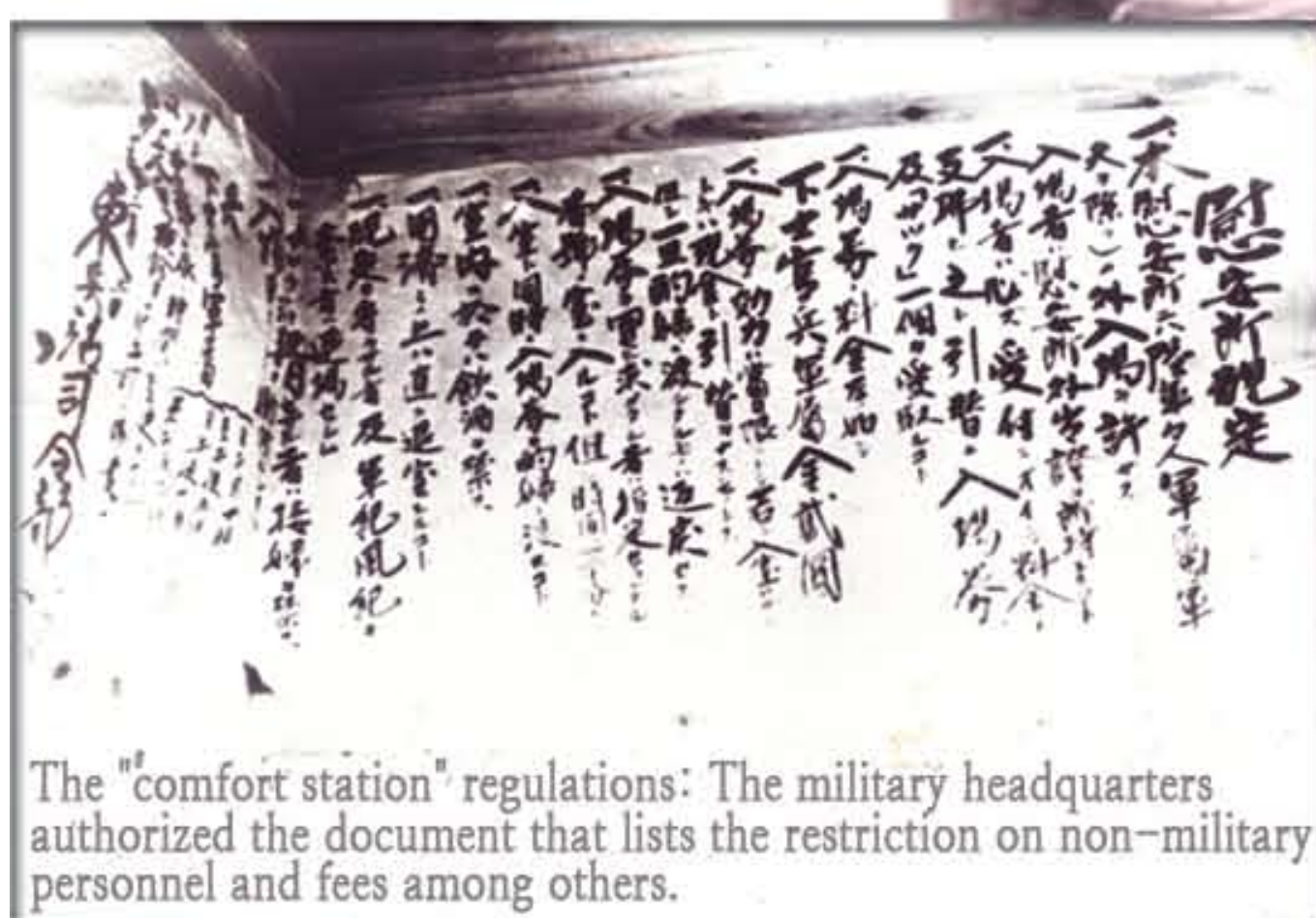
The regulations and the lives of the military sexual slaves

The women were under strict rules and regulations while the processes of "comfort station" establishment, operation and the recruitment of women were controlled either directly by the military or by private brokers. The locations and timeline varied. The "comfort station" regulations list times of usage by hierarchy, fees, venereal disease check-up guidelines and other sanitation elements.

The sex slaves had to go through periodic examinations of venereal diseases for the safety of the soldiers. The survivors testify that they were cruelly raped even during their menstruation, pregnancy and sicknesses. The women were under extreme control and surveillance by the military.

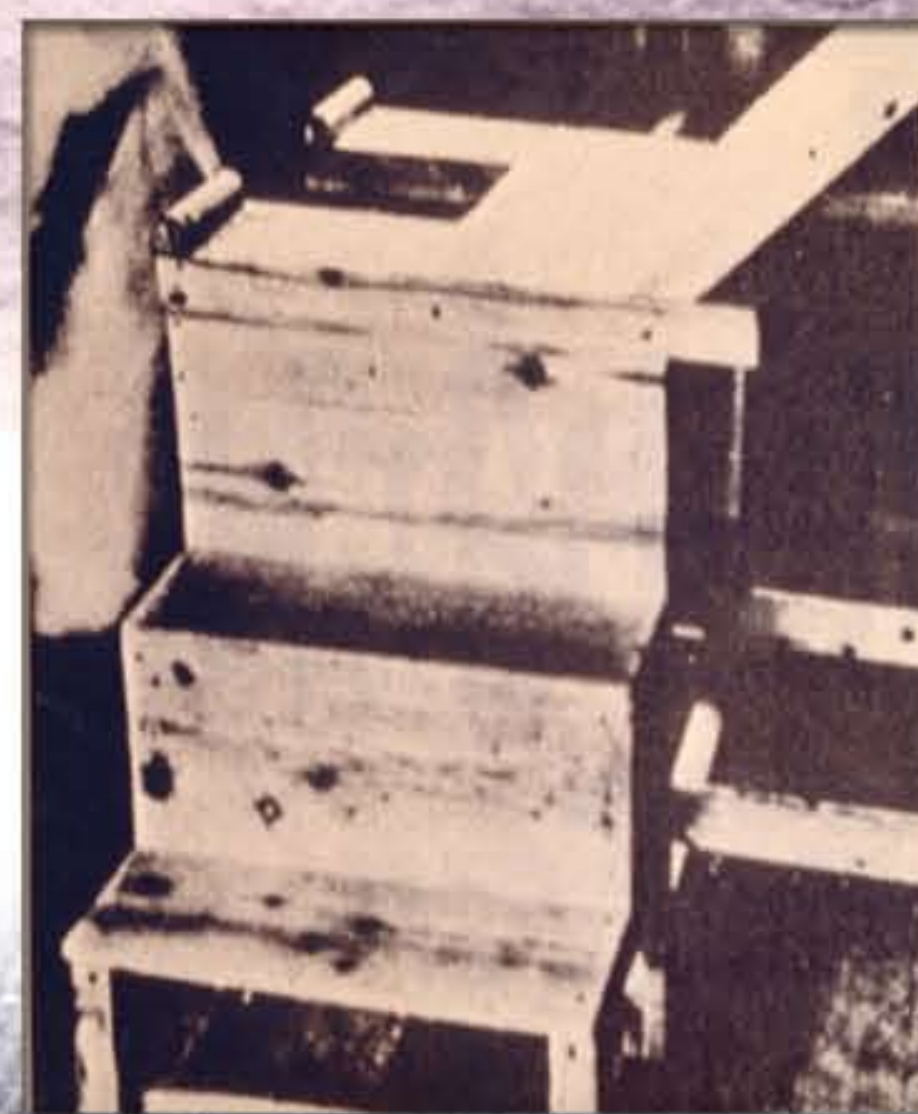


The condom used during the time, named "Assault-1."



The "comfort station" regulations: The military headquarters authorized the document that lists the restriction on non-military personnel and fees among others.

A bed used for venereal disease examinations ▶



Inside the "comfort stations"



Women in the military sexual slavery abandoned by the Japanese military
- the pregnant woman, Ms. Park Yeong-shim (deceased) lived in North Korea after the war

"Comfort Women" at the End of the War

With Japan's defeat in the war, the sex slaves were abandoned in the region, got killed in bombing or slaughtered by the soldiers. The survivors suffered difficulties as they tried to come back home, and many of them even gave up.

Honor and Human Rights!

After Liberation...

The courage that broke the silence

The Lives of the Survivors after Liberation

The survivors have lived with tremendous physical pain due to the violence, torture, and rape during the sexual slavery. Many of them weren't able to get pregnant, and therefore many of them had a hard time getting married and settling down. Most of all, they had to live with much psychological distress, living in silence due to many social prejudices against them.

The name of the "comfort station" operator engraved on the arm of a North Korean survivor, Ms. Kim Cheol-soon ▼



▲ the deceased victim, Kim Eun-rae. She had her right shoulder dislocated due to the violence.



A survivor, Ms. Lee Ok-sun, crying ▲

The Courage that Broke the Silence

In 1988, at the "Seminar on Women and Tourism," opened in Jeju Island, Korea, the issue of military sexual slavery by Japan was revealed publicly in the society for the first time by Ms. Yoon Jeong-ok. After that, with help of many women's organizations, the "Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan" was organized and started to call for Japanese government's responsibilities on the issue.

However, the Japanese government denied its responsibilities in the war crimes.

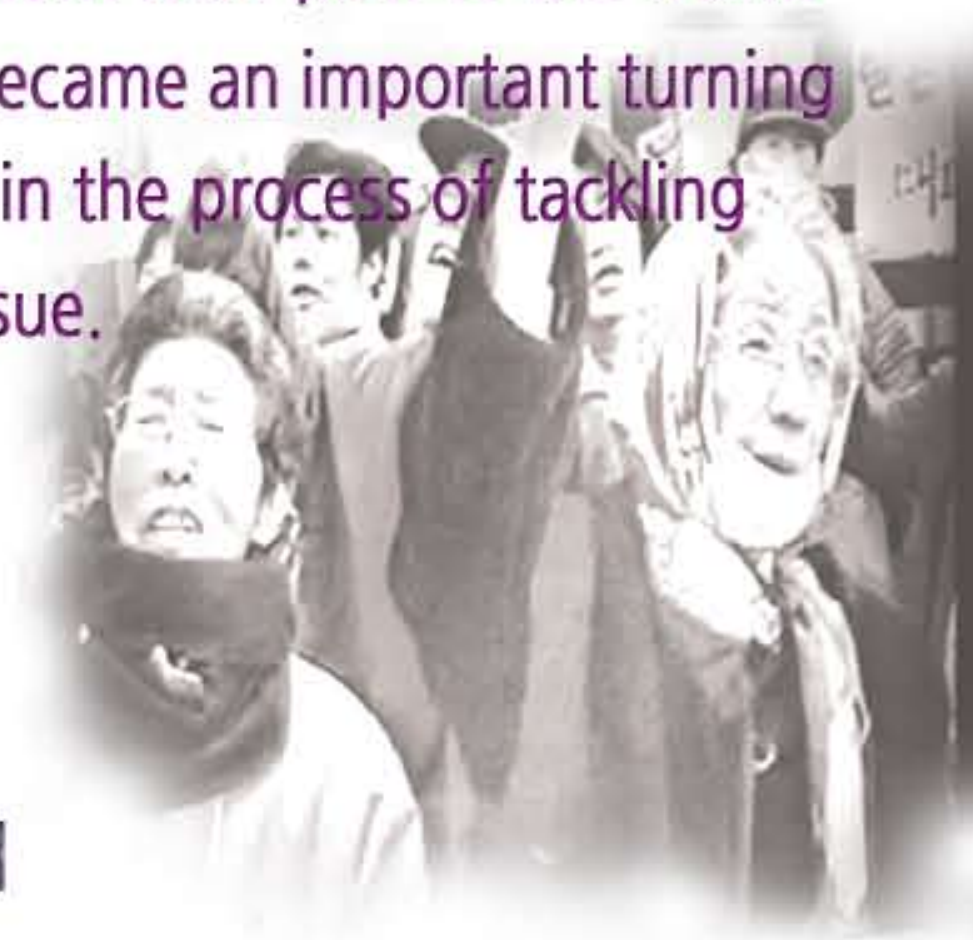
Finally, the late Ms. Kim Hak-soon, publicly testified that she was a victim of the military sexual slavery by Japan. She was the first one to "come out." This incident gave courage to other victims to speak out about their pain to the world and became an important turning point in the process of tackling the issue.

The first public testimony about the crime in August 14, 1991, by the deceased Kim Hak-soon. ▲



The first Wednesday Demonstration on January 8, 1992, which has become a regular protest until today

Most of the victims, who stayed distant from their families and neighbors and were not even able to mention the brutal experiences, began to actively speak out about the vicious crimes committed by the Japanese military during the war with the help of a lot of supportive citizens.



Honor and Human Rights!

Shouting Together
– The Wednesday Demonstration,
the beginning of the Solidarity

The Wednesday Demonstration

Despite the fact that the “Comfort Women” issue has been revealed to the world and people have demanded the Japanese government its responsibilities, the Japanese government has not yet completely fulfilled its responsibility. The first Wednesday Demonstration started when the Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa, in January 8, 1992. Lead by the Korean Council, the Wednesday Demonstration is held on every Wednesday at noon in front of the Japanese Embassy resident in Seoul. The protest has been continued for 17 years until today (June, 2009) with the support of many citizens and organizations.

The Wednesday Demonstration has become a special space for a new sense of unity. Through this opportunity, the survivors have become active voices in the world, and citizens speak out for the honor and human rights of the survivors and peace. In addition, it has become a living museum for the general public.



Asian Solidarity Conference
& Wednesday Demonstration



The Solidarity Movement

The international solidarity movement among the victimized nations in Asia was started soon after the initiatives of the survivors and citizens of Korea. Starting with the first Asian Solidarity Conference in Seoul in 1992, the Philippines, Taiwan, Indonesia, China, East Timor, the Netherlands, Japan, and North and South Korea have been involved in the movement, and the solidarity extended throughout the countries North America, Europe, and Oceania.



A Scene from the Wednesday Demonstration

Honor and Human Rights!

The Women's International Tribunal and the Voices from around the World

The Women's International Tribunal in 2000

[The Women's International War Crimes Tribunal For the Trial of Japan's Military Sexual Slavery in 2000] was held with much increased international effort after several years of dedication. From December 7th to 12th, 2000 in Tokyo, the tribunal complemented the Tokyo Tribunal which was held right after WWII and prosecutors from 10 countries including the victimized countries indicted the war criminals. Some organizations from countries under military conflicts, including Kosovo and Columbia, also participated and spoke out about the violation of women's rights that was ongoing in the region.

On the next year (2001) at the final decree in Hague, the Netherlands, the below then Japanese leaders were found guilty:

*The emperor Hirohito, of war crime of commanding the atrocities!
9 high-ranking officials and generals including Dojo Hideki, of war crime!
In addition, the Japanese government was found guilty and demanded of legal reparations to the victims.*



Victims in delight after the final decree ▲



The UN and the International Community

The appeals for the resolution of the "Comfort Women" issue are ongoing at the UN. Since the proposal of the resolution to the Human Rights Committee and participating directly in the subcommittee with the survivors, the UN has urged the Japanese government as well. Human rights organizations and committees, such as the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee Against Torture, and the UN Human Rights Council, have urged the Japanese government settle the issue, including the fulfillment of legal responsibilities.

Through the activities in the UN Human Rights Council, military sexual slavery has been stipulated as violence against women and the violation of women's human rights during wartimes. Moreover, it has become an international issue through the support of international NGOs.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) stipulated the "Comfort Women" issue as a sexual slavery system and constantly demanded the compensation and complete resolution from the Japanese government.

Honor and Human Rights!

Resolutions Chosen by Different Countries ... and Now

The Resolutions

The voices from many countries urging for the resolution of the issue by the Japanese government is rising through taking the resolution at the National Assemblies and congresses. Starting with the U.S. House of Representatives in 2007, the Dutch, Canadian and EU assemblies came up with resolutions demanding the Japanese government's formal apologies and resolutions of the issue. In 2008, the Korean and Taiwanese National Assemblies, the victimized countries, also issued resolutions, urging the apology.

The city assemblies have continued such national efforts. Several Australian and Japanese assemblies have issued resolutions, showing the desire among citizens that the Japanese government should take responsibilities.



Victims standing confidently

Through these activities, the survivors are not remaining as victims, but as "survivors," actively speaking out against the Japanese government and claiming the restoration of their honor and human rights in the world. They have become bold peace activists and feminist activists, hoping to prevent the atrocities they had suffered would never happen again through educating people all over the world.

Honor and Human rights to the survivors of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan!

Unfortunately, the survivors are passing away one by one without seeing the end of their struggle. By June, 2009, there are only 91 registered survivors alive in South Korea. The effort tackling the issue is ongoing so that the survivors would be able to see the result of their incessant efforts. And it is needless to say that the citizens' support is crucial in this movement.

Stop Violation against Women!

Dreaming of
a World without War and Human Rights Violation

The World with Endless Wars

Today, there are numerous wars and conflicts that are still going on in the world. Most of the victims are powerless people, women and children. Rape and violence against women during wars are endlessly reported, but there are few regulations to eliminate such atrocity. This is why the "Comfort Women" issue should be resolved as soon as possible. As the survivors testify, there should be no more victims subjected by such a crime; therefore, we should work hard together to resolve the issue of military sexual slavery by Japan and make a peaceful world.



"Never forget about it." Korean Survivor, Lim Jeong-ja

“Comfort Women” - Their Stories

Rosalind Saw

Late at night in 1943, Japanese soldiers in a truck invaded Rosalind's house. The soldiers took her two children away and drafted Rosalind to Don Loc Hotel in Burma.

Don Loc Hotel was used as a comfort station for Japanese military and there were approximately 50 'comfort women' including Rosalind. Majority of 'comfort women' were from China and there were about 3-4 'comfort women' from Malaysia. Rosalind had to change her name to a Japanese name called Hanako and was forced to become a sex slave for Japanese soldiers.

In 1944, Rosalind fell pregnant and gave a birth to a daughter. Rosalind kept her past secret after the war. She gained courage to speak out when she read articles about other 'comfort women' in 1994.

(Information provided by WAM (Women's Active Museum on War and Peace))

Malaysia



Rosalind Saw in front of the "comfort station" during her stay as a "comfort woman." To the right, a sign that reads "For military only."

Siti Neng Itjuh was born in Java, Indonesia. In 1942, Japanese soldiers broke into her house and drafted Itjuh to western part of Java. Itjuh and 27 other Indonesian women were forcefully taken to a comfort station in a city called Sanga-Sanga.

Itjuh was forced to serve more than 15 soldiers a day. One day, a Japanese military officer named Yoshinati appointed her as his private 'comfort woman'. In May, 1945, Itjuh fell pregnant and gave a birth. Until she passed away, Itjuh raised the child by herself and had to endure painful life.

(Information provided by Eka Hindra)

Siti Neng Itjuh



Indonesia



A baby born out of rape by a Japanese soldier"

Jan Ruff-O'Herne

"They raped us all day long. The Japanese soldiers were cruel and inhumane. They threatened us with swords and beat us. The military surgeons were not exceptional.

For a long time, I could not tell anyone about my past as a 'comfort woman'. But when I saw Hak-Soon Kim, a 'comfort woman' from Korea, giving testimony on TV, I decided to give a testimony as the first European victim of military sexual slavery.

Women are still targeted as victims whenever war occurs. Women are being tortured and raped. Rape is used as one of the effective weapons during war.

I will continue to give testimonies to let next generations know about this tragic history."

the Netherlands



Jan Ruff-O'Herne was born and raised in Indonesia when it was under the Netherlands' colonization. In March, 1942, when Jan was nineteen years old, Japan invaded Java and imprisoned Netherlands at internment camps. After two years at internment camp, Jan and other selected women from the camp were forced to work as 'comfort women' for Japanese soldiers. Currently, Jan lives in Australia and participates in activism.

Wan Aihua

In mid-June, 1942, Wan Aihua was captured by Japanese soldiers and was sent to a comfort station called 'Yao-tong (meaning a house built around a cave)'. Everyday, Aihua was raped by countless Japanese soldiers. She tried to escape several times but was captured and tortured severely. When she fainted during torture, Japanese soldiers threw her away at a riverbank where she was saved by a passerby.

From repeated rape and beatings, many parts of her body were broken that her height was reduced 20cm. It took 3 years for Aihua to walk again.

(Information provided by WAM (Women's Active Museum on War and Peace))



China

“Comfort Women” - Their Stories

Korea



Hak-Soon Kim

"My life ended when I was sweet sixteen years old.

I can't explain what I had to go through in words. I was used as a public toilet for the Japanese soldiers. When the soldiers attacked me to rape... I bit my lips and tried to escape but they dragged me back. Whenever I think of those times, I feel heavy in the chest and I still feel fear.

I wanted to speak out but I didn't have enough courage. But I finally decided to speak out because it is a historical truth that has to be revealed. After I spoke about my past, I feel relieved."

"On August 14, 1991, Hak-Soon Kim testified that she was a 'comfort women' for Japanese soldiers. She was the first 'comfort woman' to speak out. After Kim's testimony, many victims of military sexual slavery gained courage and came forward. In 1941, at the age of eighteen, Kim was forcefully taken by Japanese soldiers when she was having lunch at a restaurant in Beijing, China. Kim was forced to become a 'comfort woman' at a comfort station in Manchuria, China.



Sang-Hee Kim

"Ah! I miss my mother. Mother, your daughter's spirit and body have been brutally destroyed and I am now waiting for the day I die. The warship is taking me somewhere. After several days, I finally landed. When I looked out the warship, it was crowded with soldiers."

In 1936, at the age of sixteen, Sang-Hee Kim was drafted by Japanese detectives when she was picking up a photo she took with her friend. Kim was forced to serve Japanese soldiers as a 'comfort woman' for nine years in Suzhou and Nanking in China, and Singapore. Kim was forced to serve 25-30 soldiers a day. In the spring of 1943, Kim was liberated when she was hospitalized for a cervical cancer.

Philippines



Tomasa Dioso Salinog

"In 1942, I was thirteen years old. Japanese soldiers drafted me from home. My father who was trying to protect me was beheaded by the Japanese soldiers."

I had to become a sex slave for Japanese soldiers for two years. They constantly beat and raped me. War and life as a 'comfort woman' ruined my life and future."

Tomasa Dioso Salinog, also known as Lola Masing, was drafted from her home in 1942 by Japanese soldiers. She was forced to serve as a 'comfort woman' at a comfort station in San Jose, Philippines, for two years. Salinog was the first 'comfort woman' from Philippines to speak out about her past. After her courageous testimony, many other 'comfort women' from Philippines spoke out.

Shirota Suzuko



"I was their 'slave'."

In 1938, at the age of 17, Shirota Suzuko's father sold her to Japanese military to pay off his debt. Until the war ended, Shirota had to serve Japanese soldiers as a sex slave at comfort stations in Taiwan and Saipan. From 1955, Suzuko lived at a shelter for victims of sexual violence for 20 years and published a book about her past experience as a 'comfort woman' in 1971.

Japan



For these victims,
the “war” is not over...